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REPORT NO. 50X1

COUNTRY Austria
SUBJECT 1. Soviet Army Training
2. Dependents, Discipline, Morale

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

A. Garrison Training

1. Having completed the NCO school of the 344th How. Arty. Regt., located in Allentsteig N 48-41. E 15-197 for sketch of the area, Btry. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., located in Mauer Oehling near Amstetten Encl. B7, on or about 20 November 1952.

From 20 November 1952 until 1 December 1952 there was no scheduled training in mortar battery as it was preparing itself and waiting for the new training year to begin. the training year always began on 1 December. did not know when the training year ended or what were the phases of this training. In the meantime, soldiers were kept busy painting the barracks and doing a general cleanup of the area, barracks and equipment. During this period they had only four hours of political indoctrination which consisted of a detailed study of the 19th Communist Party Congress. During these four hours they had time only for the study of the industrial goals set by the Congress.

On 1 December 1952, all units of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. (located in Mauer Oehling) were formed for inspection at approximately 0900 hours. The inspection lasted until 1400 hours. No company commander could inspect his own unit. Commanders of other companies inspected the mortar company while the mortar company commander inspected other companies. only one other unit, the 57-mm. AT Btry. For this inspection the following items had to be in the possession of the individual soldier: one complete new uniform with fur cap and gloves, individual weapon,

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL
-2-

50X1

gas mask, overcoat, ammunition pouch, entrenching shovel and combat pack. The following items were in the combat pack: towel, one change of underwear, one pair of winter footwraps, one pair of summer footwraps, mess gear, cup, spoon, shoe polish and brush, and toilet articles (which included a mirror). In addition, they had to have a canteen on their belt, one handkerchief in their trouser pocket and their Soldier's Book in their left breast pocket. The results of the inspection were not made known to the troops. From 1400 hours until 1500 hours they had dinner. From 1500 hours until 1700 hours regimental equipment was shown to the troops. They had no further training on 1 December 1952.

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On 2 December 1952 from 0800 hours until 1000 hours, they had political indoctrination which consisted of a study of the 19th Communist Party Congress. At approximately 1000 hours they were ordered back to the barracks and told to undress completely. Once completely undressed, they were told that there was an alert and to be ready to move out within 20 minutes. Theoretically all equipment was to be loaded, i.e., anything that could be loaded, into trucks. Actually, they simulated the loading and no equipment except individual equipment was taken. No trucks were furnished. It took one hour for the company to be ready to move out to the regimental assembly area. Once ready, the company moved out on the double. The exact location of the area was unknown because he went there only once. He stated that the assembly area was approximately 3.5 km. east of Mauer Oehling. At the assembly area there was only one other unit, the 57-mm. AT Gun Btry. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. Once at the assembly area, the troops underwent an inspection similar to the one described in the preceding paragraph. all soldiers forgot at least one item. They stayed at the assembly area for approximately one hour and then moved back to the barracks, with their gas masks on, at double time. The rest of the day was spent on care and cleaning of equipment. it was customary for an alert to be called at the beginning of each training year.

From then on, a regular schedule was assigned. The schedule followed by all units of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. was as follows:

<u>Week days</u>		<u>Sundays</u>	
0600-0605	Reveille	0700-0705	Reveille
0605-0625	Physical training	0700-0800	Clean-up
0625-0645	Clean-up	0800-0830	Breakfast
0645-0700	Morning inspection	0830-1500	Free time
0700-0730	Breakfast	1500-1530	Lunch
0730-0745	Free time	1530-2100	Free time
0745-0800	Morning formation	2100-2130	Supper
0800-1350	Training	2130-2400	Free time
1350-1400	Break	2400	Taps
1400-1430	Lunch		
1430-1500	Free time		

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

Week days

1500-1630 Compulsory rest
 1630-1645 Afternoon formation
 1645-1715 Manual of arms
 1715-1730 Free time
 1730-1920 Training
 1920-1930 Break
 1930-2000 Care and cleaning of equipment
 2000-2050 Political indoctrination
 2050-2100 Break
 2100-2130 Supper
 2130-2200 Individual political training
 2200-2230 Free time
 2230-2240 Evening inspection
 2240-2250 Evening stroll
 2300 Taps.

50X1 [redacted] could not give a detailed description of the daily training because he was a radio operator and did not participate in the regular company training.

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50X1 [redacted] he was unable to state the level of training of the mortar company.

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50X1 [redacted] training consisted of practicing and perfecting their Morse code knowledge. The only company training they attended consisted of physical training, close order drill, marksmanship, and political training.

50X1 At 0300 hours, 26 January 1953, the Mortar Co. and, as subsequently learned [redacted] the rest of the regiment, was alerted. Judging by the urgency in the sergeant's voice who alerted them, and the urgency shown by the officers, [redacted] this was not a practice alert. The urgency communicated itself to the men and the company was ready to move out in 30 minutes. Trucks were furnished and everything that could be loaded was actually loaded, including regular office telephones which were disconnected. As they were ready to move the alert was called off. No reason was officially given for the alert or why it was called off so quickly. Rumors were that some Soviet outpost on the border was fired upon. 50X1

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

50X1 [] no information about the regular training in the 9th Rifle Co. because he was a radio operator and did not participate in the training. However, he stated that the 9th Rifle Co. had very little training because it had its platoons stretched along the border on border guard duty. []

50X1 In the latter part of May 1953, [] sent to the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., located in Mauer Oehling, to attend a meeting of all radio operators of the regiment. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the radio operators with each other and test their efficiency. The test consisted of transmitting and receiving Morse code, through use of specially built tables which are described in subpar A9, below.

50X1 2. [] the above-mentioned units [] did not participate in range firing except as mentioned in subpar A5, below. He did not participate in platoon or company problems, marches, bivouacs, field fortifications or company tactics.

3. See subpar A1, above for detailed training schedule of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt.

50X1 4. [] all officers (platoon and company) were responsible for, and conducted training in the 120-mm. Mortar Co. He could not give any details.

50X1 5. [] the 120-mm. Mortar Co. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., located in Mauer Oehling, [] participated in the following training tests: on 10 January 1953 [] with 50X1 the rest of the company went out to the firing range for marksmanship qualification. They fired three rounds each at 100 m. 50X1 [] 65% of the rounds fired hit the silhouette targets. The company commander gave the battery a rating of "3", which denotes satisfactory firing. The numerical system for rating is from "1" to "5" as follows: "1" Very Unsatisfactory; "2" Unsatisfactory; "3" Satisfactory; "4" Good; "5" Excellent. On 11 January 1953 the entire company was tested by the company commander on the following subjects: weapon nomenclature - each soldier was supposed to be able to name all parts of his personal weapon; politics - each soldier was supposed to tell everything he remembered about political indoctrination which began on 1 December 1952; drill, i.e., close order drill; manual of arms; proper wearing of the uniform, and military courtesy. Results of these tests were not made known to the troops.

50X1 6. [] was unable to state what training deficiencies were found and corrected by higher headquarters because the individual soldier was never informed of such matters.

50X1 7. [] knew nothing about air-ground support; the system used by the Soviets to identify their units, or the Soviet liaison system; new anti-tank weapons; artillery support; tank-infantry cooperation or display and tactical use of new weapons. Along the line of specialized training, [] stated the following:

50X1 a. [] the NCO school of the 344th How. Arty. Regt., located in Allentsteig N 48-41, E 15-19, [] heard an instructor urging the members of a mortar platoon to read a manual called SOSNA (Sostav Organizatsyy Sovetskoy Nozemnoy Artillerii - Organizational Manual of the Soviet Ground Artillery). He had no further information on the SOSNA manual.

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

- 50X1 b. From conversation with an NCO, [] only one gun of an artillery formation (either of a battery, battalion or regiment) zeroed on a target and the other guns were calibrated accordingly. He had no further information on artillery registration.
- 50X1 c. The only weapons known [] were employed in direct AT fire were the 37-mm. AA gun and the 57-mm. AT gun.
- 50X1 8. On training, []
- a. Large scale motor moves: [] in convoy the minimum distance between trucks towing artillery pieces was 50 m. He learned this fact during a conversation with an NCO. No further information.
- b. Command Post Exercises: no information.
- c. Engineer bridging operations: no information.
- d. Officer and NCO leadership instruction: no information.
- e. Passive defense for air attacks: no information.
- f. Alert planning or training: see subpar A1, above, for information on alert training. No further details.
- 50X1 g. Political training: [] all political indoctrination was of a nature to prepare troops for combat. The following points were stressed: the Korean invasion was started by orders from the White House; American germ warfare. The political officers, during their indoctrination lectures, stated that the US would use BW in future wars. They brought forth the fact that the US waged BW in Korea. The great majority of EM were inclined to believe this propaganda regarding US use of BW warfare in Korea. [] never heard of BW in the Soviet Army. American atrocities were used as examples by the political officers to potential defectors or deserters in case of war. Other indoctrination subjects were on American imperialism, constant stating that the US is preparing for war and the role of the Soviet soldier in the fight against the US.
- 50X1 h. Training in chemical warfare: []
- i. Defense against atomic bombing: no information.
- j. Night training: no information.
- k. Training in airborne or air transported operations: no information.
- 50X1 l. Instruction in "living off the country": [] he never received training in "living off the country". As far as he knew, the service NCO of the unit would be responsible for rations.
- m. The amount of training needed to be considered ready for combat: no information.
- n. Factors determining combat readiness: no information.
- 50X1 o. Familiarization firing: []
- 50X1 9. All men selected for the 344th How. Arty. Regt. NCO school []
- 50X1 [] were given a mathematics test prior to being sent to the school. The test consisted of a division, multiplication,

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

subtraction, addition, basic fractions and a simple time-distance problem.

- 50X1 10. [] had five weeks of basic training with a training battalion of the 95th Mountain Rifle Regt. stationed in Dzhulfa /N 38-54, E 45-38/. The training began on 23 September 1951 and ended in the beginning of November 1951. The battalion was divided into two training companies of 60 men each. [] the training was conducted in a very poor manner and that at the end of the training the trainees knew only the following: how to fire a PPSH, how to dig a foxhole, close order drill and manual of arms, basic offensive platoon tactics, marching and physical training. Emphasis was given to political indoctrination and work details such as cleaning mortar shells. They fired the PPSH only once - two rounds at 50 m. [] since they were assigned to go outside of the USSR as replacements their basic training was short and poorly conducted.

B. Summer Training and Maneuvers

- 50X1 [] never participated in summer training or maneuvers and was unable to give any information on the subject.

C. Miscellaneous

1. Military Information

- 50X1 a. [] no dependents were allowed in the Soviet Zone of Austria. This policy created dissatisfaction among the officers.
- b. No explanation was given as to why dependents were not allowed outside of the USSR.
- 50X1 c. [] no officer or EM was allowed outside of the compound at any time except on official duty.
- 50X1 d. [] most of the EM sneaked out of the compound at least once a week. He did not know about the officers.
- 50X1 e.-h. []
- 50X1 1. Concerning discipline, []
- (1) He heard that there was an average of seven men in the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. stockade at all times.
- (2) Drunkenness among officers was so prevalent that he would not venture to guess on it. Among EM it was to a lesser degree due to greater restrictions imposed on them.
- 50X1 (3) [] did not know of any case of VD.
- (4) Minor disobediences and insults were constantly creating friction between EM and officers. He could not state a specific number of incidents as they were so commonplace.
- 50X1 (5) [] knew of no orders from higher headquarters which called attention to breaches of discipline.

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-7-

j. Low morale of the troops was evident almost all of the time. He could give only one specific example of poor discipline. This was in May 1953 when all the officers of the 120-mm. Mortar Btry. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. were involved in a free-for-all fight /cause unknown/ and in the process they damaged their billets extensively. Because only officers participated in the fight they succeeded in hushing it up.

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k. The following privileges enjoyed by officers were resented by EM: leave policy, pay and the fact that officers could send packages home while EM could not. [redacted] was not an officer and could not describe the rules on sending packages to the USSR.

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l. [redacted] medical care, recreation, and PX supplies were satisfactory. However, EM did not receive enough money to buy many of the items sold in the PX. Food was a constant factor causing low morale. As an example, [redacted] they never received their full meat ration / [redacted] This shortage always irritated the EM as did the careless cooking of the food.

m. An EM knew that while he was on draftee status he had very little chance for promotion and therefore had very little interest in the promotion policy. He was unable to give any information on the subject as far as officers were concerned.

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n. [redacted] knew nothing about air raid defense measures in the USSR.

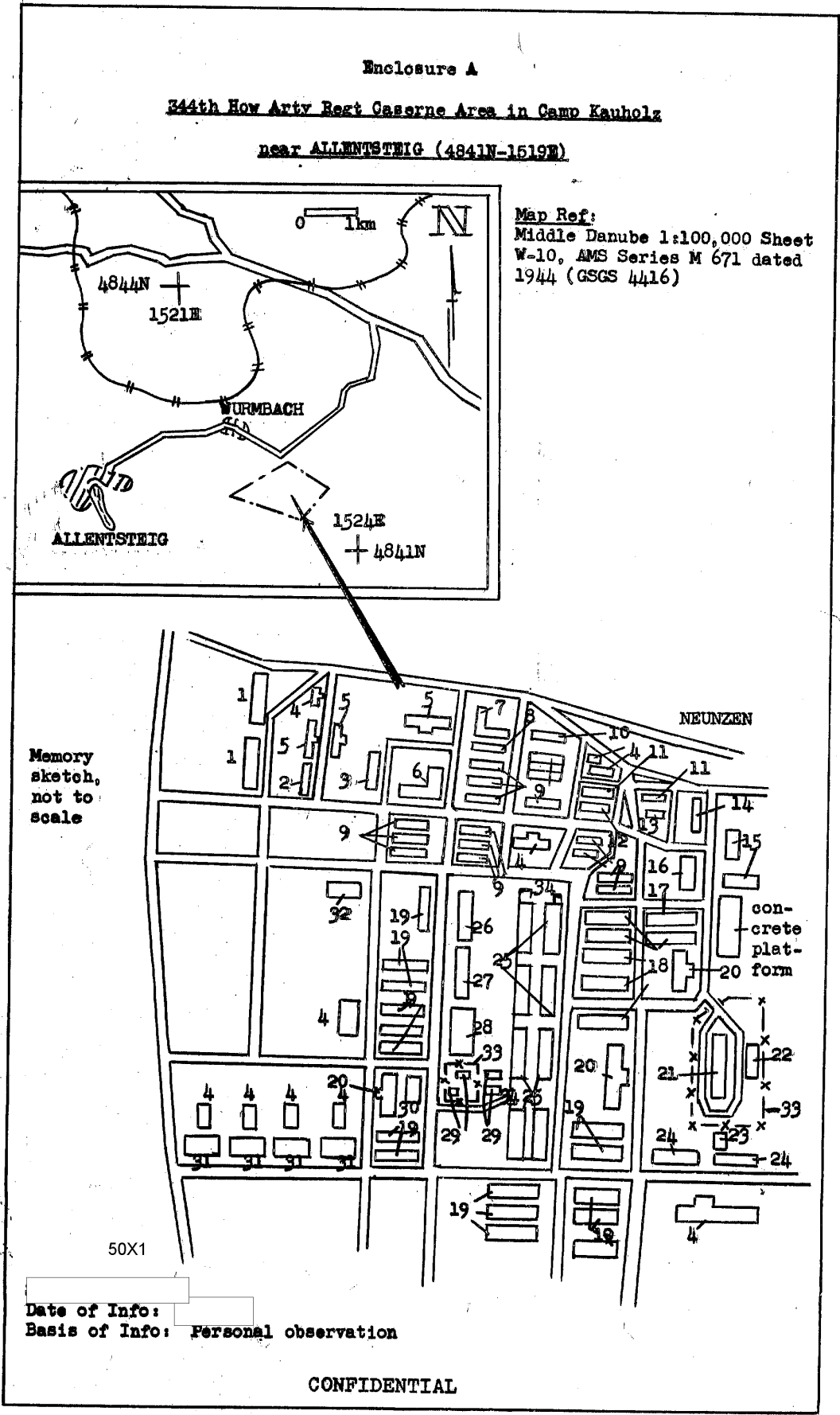
Enclosures:

- A. 344th How. Arty. Regt. Caserne Area in Camp Kauholz near Allentsteig
- B. 9th Rifle Co. Area in Haag and 3rd Gds. Rifle Bn. Area in St. Peter

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL
-8-



CONFIDENTIAL

-9-

Enclosure A (Cont'd)

344th How Arty Regt Caserne Area in Camp Kanholznear ALLMETSING (4841N-1519E)

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Note: [] did not know the capacity of any buildings in the caserne, except as stated below. All dimensions are approximate.

LEGEND

1. Officer quarters: two 1-story wooden bldgs (attic used as second floor), 60 x 20 m.
2. Unoccupied bldg: 1-story wooden, about 60 x 20 m.
3. Regimental radio station: 1-story wooden bldg (attic used as second floor), 60 x 20 m. Only one room was occupied, that by the radio room CQ. The room had one radio, a RBM-1.
4. Unoccupied bldgs: dimensions unknown.
5. Officers' club and quarters for junior and senior officers: three 1-story brick bldgs, 60 x 40 m, with tile roofs.
6. Hq, 344th How Arty Regt, and PX: 1-story brick bldg, 60 x 40 m, with tile roof.
7. Guardhouse: 1-story wooden bldg, 40 x 30 m.
8. Medical section: 1-story wooden bldg, 40 x 15 m.
9. Unoccupied bldgs: 1-story wooden, 40 x 15 m.
10. Unoccupied bldg: wooden, 30 x 10 m. Further details unknown.
11. NCO school office and classrooms: two 1-story wooden bldgs, 50 x 20 m.
12. Regimental headquarters company bldg: 1-story wooden, 50 x 20 m.
13. Barracks of the 7th and 8th How Btrys: 1-story wooden bldg, 50 x 20 m.
14. Regimental service unit bldg: 1-story wooden, 50 x 20 m.
15. Vehicle and weapon repair shops: two bldgs, dimensions unknown.
16. IM club: 1-story wooden bldg, 60 x 30 m.
17. Hq Flat, 3d How Bn, bldg: 1-story wooden, 60 x 20 m.
18. Barracks of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th How Btrys and Hq Flat, 3d How Bn: six 1-story wooden bldgs, 60 x 20 m.
19. Unoccupied bldgs: 1-story wooden, 60 x 20 m.
20. Officers' and IM messhalls: three 1-story wooden bldgs, 50 x 20 m.
21. Ammunition depot: 1-story wooden bldg, 70 x 20 m.

50X1

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50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-10-

Enclosure A (Cont'd)

22. Ammunition depot: 1-story wooden bldg, 25 x 15 m.
23. Old wooden shed: dimensions unknown.
24. Coal and wood storage: two 1-story wooden bldgs, 60 x 20 m, with concrete floors.
25. Garages: eight bldgs, 60 x 25 m, with brick walls. Four were empty, four housed vehicles and artillery pieces of the 344th How Arty Regt. Each garage had a capacity of 40 vehicles, parked in two rows.
26. Food, equipment and clothing depot: 1-story brick bldg, 40 x 15 m, with tile roof.
27. Gymnasium: 1-story brick bldg, 40 x 25 m.
28. Concrete platform for washing vehicles: had two hoses.
29. POL depot: bldgs of wood, dimensions unknown.
30. Regimental bathhouse: 1-story wooden bldg, 40 x 20 m, with concrete floor. Sixty men could bathe at once.
31. Unoccupied bldgs used for potato storage: four 2-story brick, 20 x 10 m, with tile roofs. Potatoes were stored in the cellars of two of the structures.
32. Regimental water works: brick bldg, dimensions unknown. ☐ believed the works included some sort of pumps.
33. Barbed wire fences: 2-m high.
34. Wooden fences: 2-m high.

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Security

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☐ knew of only six guard posts in this area:

- Post 1: Stationary post by the regimental colors within the headquarters bldg. (#6).
- Post 2: Walking post within the motor park (#25).
- Post 3: Walking post within the ammunition depot (#21 and 22).
- Post 4: Walking post inside of the POL dump (#29).
- Post 5: Walking post around the food and clothing depot (#26).
- Post 6: Walking post around regimental headquarters (#6).

Guard was made up of three reliefs. Each guard had two hours on and four hours off. One sentinel was at each post, armed with a FPSH and two magazines of ammunition. ☐

50X1

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50X1

CONFIDENTIAL
-11-

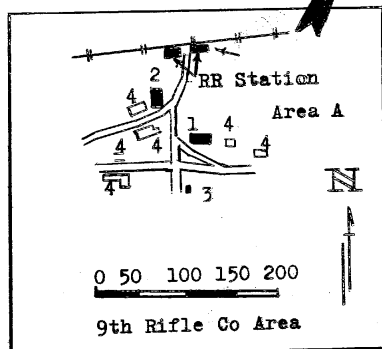
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50X1

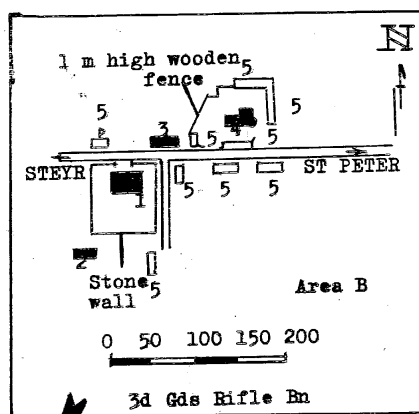
Enclosure B
9th Rifle Co Area in HAAG (4806N-1434E) and 3d Gds Rifle Bn Area in ST PETER (4802N-1438E)

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HAA



Map Ref: Middle Danube 1:100,000
Sheet X9 AMS Series M671



ST PETER

50X1

Date of Info:
Basis of Info: Personal observation

32
48

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL
-12-

Enclosure B (Cont'd)

9th Rifle Co Area in HAAG (4906N-1434E), and 3d Gds Rifle Bn Area
in ST PHUNG (4902N-1438E)

LEGEND

Area A - 9th Rifle Co

1. Barrack of headquarters personnel of the 9th Rifle Co: 2-story brick bldg, about 20 x 10 m, with tile roof. Capacity, 15 men.
2. Garage: wooden barn, about 35 x 10 m. Three trucks were parked inside.
3. Bathhouse: brick bldg, about 5 x 5 m. Capacity, two men.
4. Civilian houses. [] believed that they were occupied. However, he was unable to state the nationality of the occupants.

Security

There was only one guard posted around the company building (#1, above). He was armed with a PPSH and two magazines of ammunition.

Area B - 3d Gds Rifle Bn

1. Hq. 3d Gds Rifle Bn, and barrack of the MG Co, Mortar Co and one AT squad: 2-story brick bldg, 30 x 25 m, with tile roof. Capacity, approximately 150 men. There was a RBM-1 radio set in the building, which maintained contact with the companies of the battalion, and a K-10 switchboard.
2. Artillery park: wooden shed, about 20 x 10 m. Capacity unknown.
3. Garage: 1-story brick shed, about 30 x 15 m. Capacity unknown.
4. Officer and BM messhall, and barrack for Sig Plat, Svc Plat, VNOS* Squad and Med Sec: 3-story brick bldg, 30 x 20 m, with brick tower on the SE corner. The tower was used as an air observation post. A RBM radio set maintained contact with regiment.
5. Civilian buildings. [] believed that they were occupied. However, he was unable to state the nationality of the occupants.

Security

There were three guard posts in this area:

Post 1: Stationary post at the door of the headquarters building (#5).

Post 2: Walking post around the artillery park (#2)

Post 3: Walking post around building (#4)

The guards were armed with a carbine and an unknown number of rounds of ammunition.

*VNOS - Air Observation Service (Vozdushnoye Nabludeniye Opoveshcheniye i Svyaz)

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